

Unity and Hope

Romans 15:5-13

October Memory Verse: Romans 12:10 "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves."

- Continue practicing this verse by saying it as loudly and quietly as you can, with funny voices and accents. Make it engaging so that your kids want to learn it!

Opening Activity: Choose one or two that seem most appropriate for your children to start the lesson. Feel free to work them into the lesson if your kids tend to get antsy and need an activity to regroup.

- Practice saying this month's memory verse together, along with other verses you have memorized. Say it in funny voices, say it as loudly or as quietly as you can, say it while standing on one foot. If your kids are writers, have them write it down on a pretty or cool piece of paper to hang in their bedroom. Come up with motions that you can do while saying the verse, too.
- Pray together as a family for any needs you or others have. Remember to thank Him for His blessings and what He is doing in your lives, too.
- Start to introduce the concept of unity to your kids. Set up an obstacle course: include things to climb over and under, things to walk around or through, and silly things to do (like jump 10 times). Have your kids go through it with one rule: They have to hold hands the entire time; any time they let go, they have to start over. After they finish it, talk about how they had to have *unity* to complete the obstacle course: they had to work together as a team in order to make it through successfully. Mention that in today's passage, Paul encourages his friends to have that same spirit of unity.

Lesson: As you teach God's word this week, remember that He is using your faithfulness to accomplish His good purposes... whether it seems like it in the moment or not! Don't lose heart and don't give up. The seeds you are planting NOW will yield fruit.

- Provide a quick recap to your kids: "We are learning from the book of Romans about how to live in a way that pleases God. Romans was written by a missionary named Paul who loved Jesus and wanted others to love Him, too. We have learned so many different things already, but I think it's important to remember that God cares more about our hearts than our hands. He wants us to be kind and obedient in our hearts. Jesus helps us do that!"
- Introduce the passage: "Today, we are reading from Romans 15:5-13. This passage talks about how we can have unity and hope as we follow Christ together!"
- Read the passage. As you do, pause to clarify words or passages. You could read the passage from The Message or another kid-friendly translation to make it more understandable to kids.
 - *Key Concept: We can live together with unity and hope.*
- Review the passage:
 - Vs. 5-6
 - God gives us endurance and encouragement so that we can keep following Him. He gives us that through the Bible, through His Holy Spirit, and through other people.
 - God also wants us to have unity with other people.
 - If we have unity in our hearts, we can praise God together!
 - God can give us unity, even if we are different from the people around us.
 - Vs. 7-12
 - We glorify or praise God when we accept and love people as they are, just like Christ accepted us as we were.
 - God wants everyone to be part of His family.
 - We can praise God together with other believers, knowing that God gives us unity with them.
 - Vs. 13
 - As we trust in God, He gives us joy and peace.
 - When we are filled with joy and peace, we can also have hope that God will keep working in our lives.
- Connect the Gospel: "When God created people, He made them good and with free will. The first people God made, Adam and Eve, disobeyed God. Now, everyone sins, too. The punishment for sin is separation from God forever. God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth. Jesus lived a sinless life. He died on a

cross, taking the punishment for our sin. He rose to life three days later, showing that He won over sin and death. If we ask Jesus to forgive our sins, He will. Then we can spend eternity with Him in heaven."

- Close the lesson: "I'm so glad God helps us have unity and hope. It's so great to be part of His family."
- Pray, then do some of the activities below, as appropriate for your family.

Activity Ideas: These are designed for use at the end of the lesson or throughout to break up the "sitting still" times. Be in tune with what your kids need in order to make this lesson the most effective for them.

- Color the page below as a fun and relaxing activity for your kids to wrap up the lesson.
- Do a puzzle together. Talk about how all the pieces are different, but together, they make one big picture. There is unity in the pieces, just like there can be unity in the body of Christ. Together, we make one big picture that shows the world who God is.

We Are All
One In Christi

